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SUBJECT: ESTONIA: PARLIAMENT RATIFIES EUROPEAN  
CONSTITUTION

(U) On May 9 the Estonian parliament ratified the Constitutional Treaty for Europe with 73 votes in favor and one against in the 101-seat parliament (10 deputies did not vote, 17 were not present, and the MP who cast the single vote in opposition said he did so to avoid the unanimity of Soviet era votes). According to Foreign Minister Urmas Paet, "It is a good treaty for Europe, and for Estonia." Paet said that the ratification of the Constitution demonstrated Estonia's wish to proceed towards a stronger, more efficient, and more democratic European Union and that Estonia is "prepared to face the challenges confronting the EU." Prime Minister Andrus Ansip also expressed his satisfaction with parliament's decision, saying that Estonia's ratification was an important contribution to the EU.

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